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## Should Alberta Export Natural Gas?

### 2nd Radio Talk by Mr. James Walker for Northwest Natural Gas Co.

In my discussion a week ago I stated that gas should be exported from Alberta. I said that if the necessary permissions were granted the Northwest Natural Gas Company plans to build a pipe line to export natural gas from this province to Vancouver, via Spokane and Seattle. Let me again assure the people of Alberta that the Company fully agrees with the principle that the present and future requirements of the Province of Alberta must be provided for and take priority over export. It is only a portion of the surplus available for export that the Company wishes to purchase. It was shown that the present reserves of 4.5 trillion cubic feet are more than sufficient to supply the present and future demands of the province and provide a simple margin for export. I stated that evidence had been produced to the Gas Commission to indicate that an export market for gas would stimulate exploration and development with the result that proven reserves of natural gas would grow faster than consumption. In this connection it was pointed out that in the last 5 years, 2.8 trillion cubic feet of gas had been added to the already large reserves in Alberta. These discoveries were made mainly in the search for oil. An export market would give the necessary impetus to look for gas and would undoubtedly result in many new discoveries and greater additions to the reserves. I quoted figures to show that low cost fuel is not the factor in locating industry that people generally believe, and that lack of raw materials, low density of population and high transportation costs are a handicap to Alberta becoming highly industrialized. On the other hand I made the assertion that industries incidental to the gas industry would be attracted, such as chemical plants using butane and propane. The propane could be used as bottled gas in the rural districts. These constituents would be extracted from the gas to be carried through the pipe line and would be available to local industry.

#### BEST ROUTE CHOSEN

I should now like to deal more fully with the project of the Northwest Natural Gas Company and the economic benefits which will accrue to the people of Alberta when the pipe line is built. The Company was organized by a group who have had considerable experience in the natural gas industry in the past 20 years. The Company first carefully examined two alternative routes across British Columbia but engineering studies definitely established that a pipe line direct to Vancouver, across British Columbia, could only be built at a prohibitive cost, with the probability that it could not be maintained in repair in the winter months. Accordingly a route was chosen through the Crownst Pass to Kingsgate, then to Spokane, Seattle, and Vancouver. Approximately 1000 miles, including gathering lines, will be laid in Canada and about 700 miles in the United States.

#### MONEY FOR ALBERTA

The estimated cost of constructing the pipe line is 100 million dollars of which 40 million dollars will be the cost of the part laid in Canada. During construction, the sum of approximately 16 million dollars will be spent in Alberta for labor. A Canadian company will be formed to construct, own and operate that part of the system lying in Canada. Canadians will be given an opportunity to invest in the Company. It is estimated that 1 million dollars will be paid yearly in Alberta for wages and salaries. In addition approximately 250,000 dollars will be paid yearly in wages by the companies who supply the gas. The Company will pay a minimum of 173 million dollars over the first 25 year period for natural gas now in the ground. This is roughly 7 million dollars per annum. This will be new money. It will come from the sales outside of the Province and be paid to the producers of gas. Furthermore, a substantial portion of gas will be paid for in United States dollars which will improve Canada's foreign exchange position. The project will be one of Alberta's largest industries. It will exceed any other company in capital investment and will rank among the first 12 in payrolls and the first 6 in cost of materials.

Using an average royalty figure of 15% it is estimated that the total royalty payments over a 25 year period will be approximately 26 million dollars. Of this amount it is estimated that a minimum of 37 per cent, or roughly 10 million dollars, will go to the Province, and the balance to private owners in the Province. In addition, payments for rights-of-way for the pipe line will probably amount to 500,000 dollars. There will also be a substantial amount in taxes to accrue to the Dominion as well as the Provincial Government.

The financial returns from the project will be of tremendous importance in the economy of Alberta. The project will bring substantial sums of new money into the province. It will provide regular employment and a steady flow of monies to the government and others for royalties, taxes, salaries, wages. It will also give returns on invest-



#### TOMORROW'S MENU

Crisp-Tender Vegetable Soup  
Eggs Scrambled with Chicken on Toast  
Fried Potatoes Lyonnaise  
7-Minute Cabbage  
Southern Coffee Gingerbread with Cheese  
Coffee or Tea Milk (Children)

All measurements are level.  
Recipes serve four.

#### Crisp-Tender Vegetable Soup

Melt 1 tablespoon butter or margarine. Stir in 1 tablespoon dry farina and cook until it turns color. Add 2½ cups tomato juice, 1 cup water, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon sugar and ¼ teaspoon pepper; stir occasionally until boiling. Then add the vegetables. These may consist of 1 cup washed celery, cut in thin slices across the stalk; ¼ cup sliced, well-washed unpeeled mushrooms tops and stems; ½ cup fine-shredded onion or leek with tender green tops; ½ cup well-scrubbed unpeeled carrots, cut in thin rounds; ½ cup peeled parsnips, sliced thin, cut in quarters and the core removed. Bring the soup to a rapid boil; cover and cook fast about 12 minutes or until the vegetables are crisp-tender. They should not be soft. Serve sprinkled with minced parsley.

#### Eggs Scrambled with Chicken

Melt 2 tablespoons butter or margarine in a heavy frying pan; add ½ cup diced onion and sauté until yellowed. Add ½ cup well-drained solid pack tomato, 1 cup diced cooked or canned chicken, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon pepper, ½ teaspoon baking powder and 3 well-beaten eggs (grade A or B). Place over a low heat and scrape up as it becomes firm. Serve heaped on half slices of buttered toast.

#### Southern Coffee Gingerbread

##### One Utensil Method

Into a large saucepan measure ½ cup shortening (any kind), Cream ½ cup granulated or light brown sugar and 1 egg. Beat well. Sift together 2½ cups flour, 1½ teaspoons baking soda, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon, 1½ teaspoons ginger, ½ teaspoon clove and ½ teaspoon salt. Combine 1 cup dark molasses and 1 cup hot leftover coffee. Add alternately with the flour to the creamed mixtures. Line a 7"x11" baking pan with waxed paper. Rub with oil. Pour in the batter, making it higher at the edge than in the centre. Bake 35 minutes in a moderate oven (350 deg. F.) or until the gingerbread shrinks from the sides of the pan, and a toothpick when inserted comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes. Cut in squares. Serve hot or cold as desired.

##### Trick of the Chef

Place a thin slice American cheese on each square of gingerbread, and melt under the broiler. Serve at once.

##### Rice and Raisin Fritters

Put 1½ cups cooked white or brown rice in a bowl. Add 1 teaspoon flour and with a fork break up the rice into kernels. Add 1 well-beaten egg, ¼ teaspoon salt and ½ cup milk. Sift together 1 cup flour and 3 teaspoons baking powder. Stir in ½ cup raisins. Add to the first mixture with ½ tablespoon melted shortening. Melt enough vegetable fat in a heavy frying pan to barely cover the bottom. Drop on the batter by medium sized tablespoonfuls. Serve with orange sauce.

Orange Sauce: Melt 1 tablespoon butter or margarine in a saucepan. Stir in 1½ tablespoons flour, ¼ teaspoon nutmeg and ½ teaspoon salt. Add ½ cup hot water, stir constantly until boiling. Then stir in 1½ cups canned orange or tangerine juice and 1 tablespoon lime or lemon juice and bring to boiling point again. Use at once.

ments and provide other benefits. It will be a steady stabilizing force in the economy of Alberta.

#### ENCOURAGE DISCOVERY

It might also be stated that the Company has contracts with three of the major oil companies to supply gas when the pipe line is completed. One of these companies had shut down on its operations because there is no market for its gas. When the pipe line is built it has agreed to drill an additional 2 wells which will cost approximately 600,000 dollars. Another company will drill an additional 12 wells when the pipe line is built and the third has undertaken to drill as many wells as may be necessary to fulfill its contract deliveries. Other contracts may be entered into which will mean additional drilling for gas. This will result in additional expenditures in the province, largely for labor, which were not previously contemplated. This confirms that a market for gas will encourage drilling new wells and will have the effect of adding to the present reserves.

A pipe line to the North Pacific Coast will have little effect, if any, on Alberta's coal industry. On the other hand experiments are now being conducted to produce a high B.T.U. gas from coal at low cost. It is believed that a process will be found in the near future which will enable coal gas to compete with natural gas and in this event the coal industry would benefit as the pipe line could then be used to transport coal gas to the coast.

#### ALBERTA TOWNS SERVED

It is the intention of the Northwest Natural Gas Company to cooperate as closely as possible with present distributing systems in the Province in order to serve the best interests of the people of Alberta. The companies distributing gas in Alberta will have the opportunity to get supplies from the Northwest Natural Gas Company which would give them new and enlarged reserves without having to make substantial capital expenditures to build pipe lines to distant fields. Some of the gathering lines in connection with the pipe line could be used to supply local distributing systems in areas which are not now being served with gas.

Several reasons can be advanced for exporting gas to the United States. It has already been pointed out that the project will improve Canada's dollar position with the United States. Canada has imported for years, and must continue to import from the United States, a large variety of products which we cannot produce ourselves and which are of vital importance in our economy. We must sell if we are to buy. At the present time imports from the United States include very substantial purchases of coal and related fuels as well as petroleum and petroleum products. Until a year ago Canada imported at least 90 per cent of its petroleum products from the United States and in spite of Alberta's production, still finds it necessary to import about 80 per cent of its current requirements. It would, therefore, be a reciprocal gesture to sell United States a small portion of our natural gas, thereby doing so improve our trading position.

The cities of Vancouver and Seattle and others in the Pacific Coast area depend largely on oil for their fuel supplies. Most of the gas distributed in that area is made from oil which is transported by tankers. In the event of a war the possibility of which should not be minimized, it would be difficult, if not impossible to service cities in that area with oil. Industry in general would suffer but still more important, the production of war materials, would be jeopardized. The supply of natural gas would remove this difficulty. It would be a real defence measure. It was recently reported that the North Atlantic Security Pact might cost Canada 20 million dollars. The pipe line to the Coast would be no expense to Canada. It would be a source of revenue as well as a measure of defence.

#### SUMS UP

Summing up what I have said in my two broadcasts it will be in the best interests of Alberta to export gas for the following reasons:

1. The reserves of natural gas are more than sufficient to supply the present and foreseeable requirements of the Province.
2. There is ample surplus for export.
3. A new major industry will be brought to the Province, which will attract other industries.
4. Large sums of money will be brought into the Province and spent on wages, etc.
5. The revenues of the Province will be increased by royalties and by taxation.
6. Natural gas will be made available to many localities within the Province which are not now being served with gas.
7. The development of other resources of the Province will be aided.
8. Alberta can contribute in a larger way to reciprocal trade relations with the United States and in so doing improve Canada's position in American dollars.
9. The pipe line would be a defence measure and a necessity in time of war.

From the information I have given in the course of my radio talks I trust the people of Alberta will have a clear understanding of the project of the Northwest Natural Gas Company. As I said in my previous broadcast it is a subject of major importance. It is only by knowing the facts that the question can be solved satisfactorily.